

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to delete reference to the claims in the body of the specification and to provide appropriate headings. Claims 1-8 have been canceled. Claims 9-11 have been added. The presently pending abstract has been canceled and a new Abstract has been added.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

### **I. Objection to the Specification**

The Examiner objected to the specification for presence of claim numbers in the body of the specification. As noted above the specification has been amended to delete reference to claim numbers. The specification has also been amended, as noted above, to provide headings.

It is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

## **II. Objection to the Abstract**

The Examiner objected to the Abstract for containing two paragraphs. As noted above, the pending Abstract was canceled and replaced with a new one.

## **III. Rejection of Claims**

### **IIIa. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

The Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. As noted above, claim 7 has been canceled, together with claims 1-6 and 8. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 9-11 comply with all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

### **IIIb. Rejection Over the Prior Art**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by and claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conrad et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,368,082 (Conrad). It is respectfully submitted that claims 9-11 are patentable over Conrad.

Specifically, claim 9 recites that of two radial bearings that support a rotor shaft, the bearing, which is located closer to the gravity center of the rotor, is formed as a gas bearing, and another radial bearing is formed as a non-gas bearing.

As explained in the specification, the use of gas and non-gas radial bearings permitted, on one hand, to provide a radial bearing in a location closer to the gravity center of the rotor that is capable to better absorb high reaction forces generated in this location and, on the other hand, to eliminate the need in a high-precision centering of the support points.

Conrad does not disclose use of a combination of gas and non-gas bearings.

Conrad corresponds to DE 0S 199 15 983 which is discussed in the preamble of the specification. As discussed in the specification, the structure of DE 0S 199 15 983 did not find commercial application in gas turbo-molecular pump. The main reason for this is a requirement to precisely align upper and lower gas radial bearings and the axial radial bearing which is almost impossible to achieve.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Conrad does not anticipate or makes obvious the present invention, as defined by claim 9, and claim 9 is patentable over Conrad, and is allowable.

Claims 10-11 depend on claim 9 and are likewise allowable.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Alexander Zinchuk

Reg. No. 30,541

Dated: September 26, 2005  
Abelman, Frayne & Schwab  
666 Third Avenue, 10th Floor  
New York, NY 10017-5621

212-885-9383

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Alexander Zinchuk